

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 47 and cancel claim 52 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, claims 1-51 are pending in this application.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner LaForgia in the August 9 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks. Specifically, Applicants amend claims 1 and 47 as proposed during the personal interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,987,134 to Shin et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Initially, by this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 52. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 52 is inconsistent with the pending claims.

Furthermore, by this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 47 to recite, "wherein the command is erasing the data stored within the storage medium, and in spite of the command, the data within the storage medium is preserved." As agreed during the personal interview, Shin does not disclose, teach, or suggest this feature.

As discussed during the personal interview, the Office Action alleges that Shin discloses a command in the form of commands implemented as part of an e-mail program access to files, or running applications (C5/L1-3). However, as discussed during the personal interview, these programs are typically stored in writeable and erasable memories, not write-only memories. Shin does not disclose that when an erase command is issued in one of such programs, that the data to be erased is maintained. Accordingly, Shin cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach, or suggest that "wherein the command is erasing the data stored within the storage medium, and in spite of the command, the data within the storage medium is preserved." as recited in claims 1 and 47.

Because Shin does not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicants respectfully that "the command is at least one of reading, writing, and erasing the data stored within the storage medium," claims 1 and 47 are patentable over Shin. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-46 and 48-51 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 47 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-51.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination w/ check # 170290 (\$790)

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